

2002P00503US
Armin Zimmermann

REMARKS

Claim Status

By way of the above amendment, claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1 – 25 are currently pending.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §112

In paragraphs 1 and 2, the Examiner rejected claim 1 for indefiniteness and suggested claim language to remedy the same. Applicant has amended the application accordingly. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

In paragraphs 3 and 4, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6-10 and 10 as being anticipated by Eggebrecht *et al.* (US Patent 6,302,638). Applicants traverse.

In paragraph 7, the Examiner suggested claim language which would put claim 1, and its dependent claims, in condition for allowance. Applicant has amended claim 1 accordingly. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraphs 5 and 6, the Examiner indicated the allowability of claims 20-25 and further indicated that claims 4, 5, 11 and 13-19 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant notes this with appreciation.

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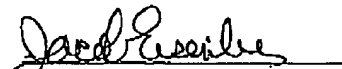
CONCLUSION

The present response is intended to correspond with the Revised Amendment Format. Applicants understand that with the Revised Amendment Format, the provisions of 37 CFR §1.121 are waived. Should any part of the present response not be in full compliance with the requirements of the Revised Amendment Format, the Examiner is asked to contact the undersigned for immediate correction.

No new matter has been added by way of the aforementioned amendments.

In the event that the transmittal form is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension of time and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No.: 502464 referencing client reference: 2001P00503US. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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